

# House File 560 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 560  
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 349)

## A BILL FOR

- 1 An Act giving weight to school district reorganization
- 2 petitions filed with an area education agency and signed by
- 3 eligible electors.
- 4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 275.5, Code 2017, is amended to read as  
2 follows:

3 **275.5 Proposals for merger or consolidation.**

4 1. A proposal for merger, consolidation, or boundary change  
5 of local school districts shall first be submitted to the area  
6 education agency board following the procedure prescribed in  
7 this chapter.

8 2. Following receipt of a petition pursuant to section  
9 275.12, the area education agency board shall review its plans  
10 and determine whether the petition complies with the plans  
11 which had been adopted by the board.

12 a. If the petition does not comply with the plans ~~which~~ that  
13 had been adopted by the board, the board shall conduct further  
14 surveys pursuant to [section 275.4](#) prior to the date set for  
15 the hearing upon the petition. If further surveys have been  
16 conducted by the board, the board shall present the results of  
17 the further surveys at the hearing upon the petition.

18 b. If the petition does not comply with the plans that  
19 had been adopted by the board, or by the board of an affected  
20 school district, the area education agency board shall give  
21 weight to the petition, but shall not be bound by it.

22 EXPLANATION

23 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
24 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

25 This bill requires an area education agency (AEA) board that  
26 is reviewing a petition submitted under Code section 275.12,  
27 signed by eligible electors, for a school district merger,  
28 consolidation, or boundary change that does not comply with  
29 plans adopted by an AEA board or school board, to give weight  
30 to the petition. However, the AEA board is not bound by the  
31 petition.